

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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imagery analysis report

**Airborne (VDV)-Associated Mobile Electronics  
Communication Production/Assembly Facility  
Identified at Zaporozhye, USSR (S)**

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IAR-0344/80

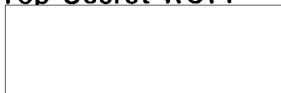
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**AIRBORNE (VDV)-ASSOCIATED MOBILE ELECTRONICS  
COMMUNICATION PRODUCTION/ASSEMBLY FACILITY  
IDENTIFIED AT ZAPOROZHYE, USSR (S)**

1. (TSR) Zaporozhye Motor Vehicle Plant Kommunar ( ), Odessa Military District, has been confirmed as the first Soviet facility to be identified as a producer of airborne (VDV)-associated mobile electronics equipment. Airborne equipment produced here includes the GAZ-66B-mounted R-125MT (Figure 1), the R-118 BM3 (Figure 2), and an unidentified communications van (Figure 3), all observed on ( ). This plant has been associated with the R-125, R-125MT (both on the GAZ-66A chassis), and BTR-60PU production/assembly since 1972. Additional products of the plant now include the R-118 and a possible replacement for the R-125 (both on the GAZ-66A chassis with low battlefield-profile van bodies), the possible communication center (on a GAZ-63 chassis), and an unidentified ZIL-131 with R-405-associated dual-axle generator trailer.

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2. (S/D) The GAZ-66B has a soft-top (canvas) cab and a fold-down front windshield, whereas the GAZ-66A is the hard-top standard version of the GAZ-66. The soft-top GAZ-66B can be distinguished from the hard-top version by the sharp edges which define the usually light-toned, flat, rectangular, canvas top. The hard-top GAZ-66A appears less rectangular. Halation in one or more areas will usually indicate the presence of rounded edges and corners of the cab's top. All van bodies mounted on both the GAZ-66A and GAZ-66B at this facility (with the exception of the standard R-125) are of the low battlefield-profile type.

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6. (TSR) The signal unit of all airborne forces consists, in part, of GAZ-66B-mounted R-125 MTs, R-118 BM3s, and unidentified communications vans, as observed at the independent airborne brigade at Aktogay Army Bks AL-1/SA 6 Regt ( ) Figure 4).

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**IMAGERY**

(S/D) All applicable satellite imagery acquired from ( ) was used in the preparation of this report. The information cut-off date for this report is ( ).

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to ( )

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Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, ( )

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